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May 8, 2024

Honorable Mayor and City Council members:

On April 26, 2024 the board members of the Neighborhood Councils learned Mayor Bass had selected a General Manager for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. This selection was then sent to the Neighborhoods & Community Enrichment Committee for approval on May 1, 2024 and from there to the City Council on May 8, 2024 for final approval.

All this was done within the space of two weeks and without including Neighborhood Council members input even though this decision directly impacts every single Neighborhood Council Member and the Stakeholders they represent. At no time were Neighborhood Council members consulted in this process. And, due to the rapidity of the movement through our system Neighborhood Councils were pretty much excluded at every level of the selection process.

Neighborhood Council Board members are elected by their community members and are responsible to their Stakeholders and the City.

The Neighborhood Councils were created over 20 years because community members felt disenfranchised by Los Angeles City Hall and thus the Councils were created to give the Stakeholders a greater voice.

Instead, we are treated pretty much like children with all decisions being made by our "superiors". Our voice not needed.

Mayor Bass and the City Council showed our Stakeholders and our hard working volunteer elected Neighborhood Council members just how little our voice matters to City Hall.

One of the requirements for the position was experience with the Neighborhood Council system. Several people who had served in the Neighborhood Council system applied for the position- they were never interviewed or even acknowledged.

Instead, the choice seemed to be some sort of political agenda rather than what might work best for the Neighborhood Council system.

Today, many of our Neighborhood Councils struggle to attract board members- or to maintain a quorum- and this latest snub by City Hall goes a long way to show the real problem with the Neighborhood Council system- If the NCs are treated as nothing more than a nuisance and disregarded every turn is it any wonder the system is failing.

Is this deliberate on the City's part? This question needs to be asked.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lydia Grant

President

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council